

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract as currently set forth on page 19 with the following amended abstract:

ABSTRACT

A request to access a WLAN from a mobile terminal (MT)/client causes an access point (AP) of the network to associate a session ID and randomized number with an identifier associated with the MT and to store data mapping the session. A local server transmits an authentication request in the form of a web page, which includes the session ID and randomized number, to the MT. The AP receives from the MT a digitally signed authentication message, a parameter list containing user credential information, session ID, and randomized number concerning the MT. The authentication message is digitally signed using the session ID and randomized number together with the parameter list. The AP correlates the session ID and parameter list received from the MT and generates a local digital signature for comparison with the received digitally signed authentication message for controlling access of the MT to the WLAN.